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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

OF THE

Whitworth Urban District

DURING 1939.

WHITWORTH :

H. Howard, Printer and Stationer, 669 Market Street.

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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN—COUNCILLOR J. HEAP

COUNCILLORS MRS. ISABELLA HEYS, J.P. (*ex-officio*)

T. GROARKE

F. HILL

F. HOLT, J.P.

G. KERSHAW

A. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. T. J. L. FORBES (*Retired*) (*Part Time*)

DR. J. W. MCKINNEY (*Appointed 1st January, 1940*) (*Full Time*)

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector :

MR. F. COOKSON, M.S.I.A.

Clerk : MISS JULIA NOLAN

Clerk and Solicitor to the Council :

MR. H. HOYLE

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of
Whitworth.*

GENTLEMEN :

I have the honour of presenting to you my First Annual Report which you will notice is a very brief one owing to prevailing conditions and Ministry of Health instructions.

My thanks are due to Dr. T. J. L. Forbes for his kind assistance during my first few months of office.

The work of the Department has been very much increased owing to Air Raid Precautions being added on, but this section has fallen more to your Sanitary Inspector than to myself.

I desire to thank the Committee, my colleagues and Mr. Cookson for their kind support.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

JAMES W. McKINNEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Council Offices, Whitworth,
23rd August, 1940.*

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area :—An Industrial Area : Cotton Spinning and Weaving ; Stone Quarrying ; Dairy Farming ; Shuttle and Picker Making.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	101	52	49	} Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident popula- tion : 13·9
	Illegitimate	4	2	2	
	Total	105	54	51	
Still Births	...	5	2	3	Rate per 1000 Total (live and stillbirths) ... 45
Deaths	...	111	67	44	Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident popu- lation ... *14·6

Deaths from Puerperal causes—					Deaths	Death-rate per 1000 Total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	—	—

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1000 live births...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	38

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	19
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Per 1000 of Estimated Population						Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births
Population 7,557 Mid 1939		Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 total (live and still) Births	
1938	... ..	12·3	15·6	0·66	1·98	Nil	Nil	86
1939	... ..	13·9	*14·6	0·39	2·51	Nil	Nil	76
Previous Year		+1·6	—1·0	—0·27	+0·53	Nil	Nil	—10

*1939 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1·06)=15·47 per 1,000.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1939.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED										HOSPITAL	
	Total Cases at all Ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS								Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of per- sons belonging to district.
		Under 1	1-3	3-5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over		
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	4	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria, (including Membranous Croup) ...	19	...	...	10	8	...	1	...	...	...	18	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia ... }	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ... }												
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	}	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Malaria { Contracted in this Country ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g. :—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles, excluding German measles	4	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	35	1	3	14	10	1	1	1	3	1	...	18

CAUSES OF DEATH.

ALL CAUSES	M. 67	F. 44
Enteric fever ... ..	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...
Influenza	2	...
Meningococcal meningitis ... ..	...	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	...
Other Tuberculosis	2	...
Cancer	9	10
Rheumatic fever ... ..	...	...
Diabetes ... ..	...	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage	2	1
Heart disease	12	20
Other circulatory diseases	9	2
Bronchitis	1	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	2
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	...	...
Peptic ulcer	1	1
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	1	...
Appendicitis ... ..	...	...
Liver diseases ... ..	...	...
Other digestive diseases	1	...
Nephritis	2	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...
Syphilis ... ..	...	1
Endocarditis and Premature Birth, etc.	3	1
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy & parturition ... ..	...	...
Senility ... ..	...	1
Suicide	1	...
Other deaths from violence	4	...
Other defined causes	9	3
Ill-defined or not known ... ..	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ... { Total	6	2
{ Legitimate	3	1
{ Illegitimate	3	1
LIVE BIRTHS { Total	54	51
{ Legitimate	52	49
{ Illegitimate	2	2
STILLBIRTHS { Total	2	3
{ Legitimate	2	2
{ Illegitimate ... ..	...	1
POPULATION (RESIDENT) ...	7557	
COMPARABILITY FACTOR	1·06	

INFANT MORTALITY.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All (Certified Causes.) Uncertified	3	1	2	0	2	8
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria and Croup
Whooping Cough
Diarrhoea
Enteritis
Tuberculous Meningitis...	1	..	..	..	..	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis...
Other Tuberculous Disease
Congenital Malformations
Premature Birth
Atrophy, Debility
Marasmus...	2	..	..	2
Atelectasis
Injury at Birth
Erysipelas
Syphilis	1	..	..	..	1
Rickets
Meningitis <i>not Tuberculous</i>
Convulsions	1	1
Gastritis
Laryngitis
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1
Suffocation...
Influenza
Endocarditis	2	..	..	..	..	2
Pemphigus...
Accident
Total.....	3	1	2	0	2	8

Births { legitimate...101 }
 { illegitimate 4 } 105

Deaths { legitimate infants, 4 }
 { illegitimate infants, 4 } 8

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 year	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
1—5 „	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 „ .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10—15 „	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 „ .....	...	2	...	1	..	...	...	...
20—25 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 „ .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
35—45 „	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards.	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	6	5	0	2	2	0	1	0
	11		2		2		1	
	13				3			

GENERAL NOTES.

The **Birth Rate** is 13·9 as compared with 12·3 in 1938. The sex incidence is Males 54, Females 51.

The **Death Rate** is 14·6 (crude) as compared with 15·6 in 1938. The sex incidence is Males 67, Females 44.

The number of **Transferable Deaths**, *i.e.*, deaths of residents outwith the area, is 36.

The figures for **Infantile Mortality** show a rate of 76. This compares with 86 for 1938.

The **Maternal Mortality Rate** for the year is NIL.

The children of the Area now come under your Medical Officer, as School Medical Officer. Their condition is very satisfactory and on the whole the sanitary conditions of the schools are very good.

The school Dentist carries out his duties in an efficient manner and his work is appreciated, as shown by the numbers who come in for treatment.

The Child Welfare Clinic has also a very large number of mothers and babies attending each weekly session, which is a very satisfactory feature.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number is 35 as compared with 24 the previous year.

The number of **Diphtheria** cases is still high. Practically all the cases are sent to hospital. I intend to start with **Immunisation** of children early in 1941 and hope that parents will take good advantage of it, especially in the younger age groups. If this is done it should greatly reduce both the number of cases and deaths resulting therefrom.

Regarding the **Scarlet Fever** cases, provided isolation and intelligent nursing at home are available, the majority are kept at home.

During the latter part of the year **Whooping Cough** and **Measles** were made compulsorily notifiable.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Two cases were notified and the sight was not impaired.

School Closures were not called for during the year for any reason.

Housing. No new houses were erected by the Council during the year, and the programme of dealing with unfit houses had to be suspended. I am of the opinion that many of the back to back type of houses will require to be dealt with under a housing programme after the War.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. 8 Bacteriological examinations and 6 Chemical analyses have been made and the results were satisfactory in all cases.

Sanitary Accommodation. 8 waste water closets were converted to the fresh water carriage system

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

Number of premises visited	246
Number of nuisances found.....	182
Number of nuisances abated	149
Number of informal notices issued	41
Number of statutory notices issued.....	10

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The County Police administer the provisions of the above Act in this district and I am indebted to Superintendent Mitchell for the following particulars of samples obtained during 1939 :

Milk	30	Pepper	1
Cocoa	1	Pickles	1
Flour	1	Mincemeat	1
Prunes	1	Marmalade	1
Pure Boracic Acid		Jelly	1
Powder	1	Tea	1
Lard	1	Salmon	1
Margarine	1	Fruit Salad.....	1
Rice.....	1	Olive Oil.....	1
Baking Powder	1	Boracic Ointment ...	1
Sauce	1	Camphorated Oil ...	1
Strawberry Jam.....	1	Cocoa	1
Gravy Browning ...	1	Sugar	1

All the above samples were found genuine. A sample of Boracic Ointment was, on analysis, found to be "9% deficient in Boric Acid," and on a further formal sample of 6 tins being being taken and mixed together same were found to be genuine.

One sample of Margarine, whilst found to be genuine, was sold in a wrapper which bore other printed matter besides the word "Margarine" which was printed in letters less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, and the vendor was cautioned for this offence.

No proceedings have been taken against vendors in Whitworth in respect of samples purchased during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1915.

Milk—Tuberculosis.

38 samples were submitted for detecting supplies of tuberculous milk, the samples representing the mixed milk of approximately 400 cows.

Two samples were positive.

School Milk in addition was sampled quarterly, and the results were satisfactory.

Milk—Bacteriological.

51 samples were submitted for bacterial count, coliform bacillus and methylene blue reduction test, and of this number 14 were unsatisfactory. These were followed up by visits to the farms and suggestions put forward for an improvement of the supply.

Water Supply.

Eight bacteriological examinations and six chemical analyses were made during the year and in all cases the results were satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses.

There are seven licensed slaughterhouses in the district and during the year 531 visits were made, and 2616 carcasses of animals inspected. $24\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. of foodstuffs were destroyed as being unfit for human consumption.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows :—

Fresh Water Closets	1800
Waste Water Closets	165
Pail Closets	65
No. of houses on the Water	
Carriage system	2522

With a view to securing the conversion of waste water closets to the fresh water system the Council contribute to the cost of conversion to a maximum of £4 per closet. During 1939 there were eight such conversions.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The methods of scavenging of the district have been carried out on similar lines to last year. The collection of nightsoil was dealt with by motor waggon fitted with a special tank, and the domestic refuse collected weekly by motor waggon. The refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping and no complaint as to any nuisance from the tip was received.

The removal of trade refuse is carried out on a weekly basis.

A scheme for the salvage of waste paper, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, etc., was commenced during the last few months of the year, the results being fairly satisfactory. It is intended, however, to ask the help of the public to increase the salvage.

A baling machine was purchased to deal with the waste paper and a special collection from mills, warehouses and shops inaugurated.

The following gives the details and cost of collection and disposal :—

Loads removed	945
Cost per load	17/7d.
Estimated weight	2265 tons
Cost per ton	7/4d.
Weight per house per annum	18 cwts.
Cost per house per annum ..	6/8d.

SEWAGE WORKS.

The method of treatment is by precipitation tanks, continuous filters and humus tanks. Three samples of effluent were taken by the Rivers Inspector, and in each instance was classed "satisfactory."

During the year 1502 pressfuls of sludge have been dealt with, representing in dry cake weight 528 tons.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

First Aid Depot.

The County Council Clinic has been approved for this purpose, and facilities are available for the treatment of minor cases.

First Aid Parties.

The Ministry of Health decided that the War Establishment should be two First Aid Parties, but the enrolment was in excess of this number, due no doubt to the fact that most of the volunteers are regular St. John Ambulance members. This also had a bearing on the training of the parties. Daily rotas are in operation.

Ambulance Service.

1. VEHICLES. One 4 stretcher ambulance is standing by on full time service.

2. DRIVERS AND ATTENDANTS. There are five ambulance drivers enrolled and here again they were experienced car or heavy vehicle drivers

The staff of ambulance attendants is well above War Establishment and the majority of them are trained St. John Ambulance members.

Further instruction in gas has been given.

3. CARS FOR SITTING CASUALTIES. As a result of an appeal to the public three private cars were volunteered by their owners and in each case the owner is the driver.

Council Offices,

Whitworth.

